

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 313

Expressing the sense of the Senate encouraging the active engagement of Americans in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to coordinate with implementing partners in creating an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2004

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate encouraging the active engagement of Americans in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to coordinate with implementing partners in creating an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities.

Whereas many polls and studies have indicated that the United States needs to do a better job of building personal and institutional relationships with peoples and nations around the world in order to combat anti-American sentiment;

Whereas broad bipartisan consensus in favor of strengthening United States public diplomacy emerged during 2003 in both Houses of Congress and in various reports, including reports of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Gen-

eral Accounting Office, the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, the Heritage Foundation, and the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World;

Whereas in November 2003, NAFSA: Association of International Educators warned that Americans' lack of knowledge of the world represents a national liability in the fight against terrorism;

Whereas international exchange programs, which have assisted in extending American influence in the world by educating the world's leaders, are suffering from a decline in funding and policy priority;

Whereas the number of United States university-level students studying abroad in 2001–2002 was 160,920, representing just over 1 percent of United States students;

Whereas $\frac{2}{3}$ of United States students studying abroad study in Western Europe (18.7 percent in the United Kingdom alone), although 95 percent of the world population growth in the next 50 years is expected to occur outside Western Europe;

Whereas the number of scholarships for foreign students studying at United States institutions has dropped from 20,000 a year in the 1980s to 900 in 2003;

Whereas there are 29,400,000 retired workers in the United States as of June 2003, meaning that there are many older Americans who have the talent, maturity, and time to volunteer their services abroad;

Whereas the average American college graduate who has studied 1 of the less commonly taught languages reaches no more than an intermediate level of proficiency in the

language, which is insufficient to meet national security requirements; and

Whereas there are hundreds of well-established organizations in the United States that implement educational and professional exchanges, international volunteering, and related programs, and the efforts of those organizations could readily be expanded to reach out to more Americans: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “People-to-People
4 Engagement in World Affairs Resolution”.

5 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF SENATE.**

6 It is the sense of the Senate—

7 (1) to urge the Secretary of State to coordinate
8 with implementing partners in creating an online
9 database that provides information on how Ameri-
10 cans can take advantage of—

11 (A) international exchange programs of the
12 Department of State, the Department of Edu-
13 cation, and other Federal Government and non-
14 government entities;

15 (B) volunteer opportunities with organiza-
16 tions that assist refugees and immigrants in the
17 United States;

18 (C) opportunities to host international stu-
19 dents and professionals in the United States;

1 (D) sister-city organizations in the United
2 States;

3 (E) international fairs and cultural events
4 in the United States; and

5 (F) foreign language learning opportuni-
6 ties;

7 (2) to challenge Americans to become more en-
8 gaged in international affairs and more aware of
9 peoples and developments outside the United States;
10 and

11 (3) to encourage Americans to seize 1 or more
12 opportunities toward this end, by such means as—

13 (A) participating in a professional or cul-
14 tural exchange;

15 (B) studying abroad;

16 (C) volunteering abroad;

17 (D) working with an immigrant or refugee
18 group;

19 (E) hosting a foreign student or profes-
20 sional;

21 (F) participating in a sister-city program;

22 and

23 (G) learning a foreign language.

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